

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

January 16, 2004

Pay increase hits wallets, bank accounts

Story by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

An across-the-board pay increase hit bank accounts Jan. 15 as the 2004 rates kicked in.

Thanks to recent approval of the 2004 Defense Authorization Act, service members received a 4.1 percent average increase in their basic pay, with some receiving the minimum 3.7 percent and others as much as 6.25 percent.

Increases have also been allocated for Basic Allowance for Housing and Combat Pay as well as two new categories – High-Deployment Allowance and Responsibility Pay. Overall funding under the act provides \$74.2 billion for procurement, \$114.4 billion for operations and maintenance and \$63.4 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation.

The act cuts service members' out-of-pocket expenses by increasing the Basic Allowance for Housing as much as seven percent.

In 2003, service members paid an average 7.5 percent of housing costs out of pocket with an estimated 3.5 percent expected in 2004, a percentage the Department of De-



Miramar Marines may have noticed extra cash in their wallets and bank accounts Thursday as the 2004 pay increases kicked in. Service members received a 4.1 percent average increase for 2004. Photo by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

fense hopes to bring to zero by 2005.

Under Section 619 of the Military Authorization Act, the \$75 increase in imminent danger pay, which was to expire on Oct. 1, 2004, has been extended until Dec. 31. A

temporary funding bill will lock the rate at \$225 per month until Congress convenes in December to consider next year's plan.

New to this year's bill are the High-Deployment and Command Responsibility Pay

Allowances. Approved for those who spend lengthy amounts of time deployed and away from their home station, the High Deployment Allowance can add up to an extra \$300 per month. Both length and frequency of deployment will be considered when allocating these funds. But under an indefinite presidential order during the war on terrorism, the counting of deployment days is currently suspended.

The Command Responsibility Pay Allowance allocates funds to officers in pay grades O-6 that serve in a position to make critical decisions. The 2004 act, which was previously designated for active-duty officers only, opens the doors to National Guard and reserve officers who will receive prorated payments based on the number of days they performed their duty.

Important guidance under the bill also directs the executive branch to provide an annual military pay increase after fiscal year 2006 equal to the increase in the Employment Cost Index, meaning service members can expect at least 4.4 percent more in their basic pay next year.

For more information on rates specific to your time in service and pay grade, visit your Finance Office.



The Marines have landed

A Marine Heavy Helicopter 466 CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter lands aboard the USS Boxer Jan. 9 at Naval Station San Diego.

A detachment from the squadron was called up in support of the ongoing war against terrorism and force rotation efforts during Operation Iraqi Freedom II and deployed with more than 900 Sailors from the Boxer to the Central Command area of responsibility. Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

Troops to receive smallpox shot

Story by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A recently-released Marine Administrative Message directs service members scheduled for deployment to Iraq to receive another vaccination.

Under MARADMIN 002/04, Headquarters Marine Corps authorized the administration of the Smallpox Vaccination Program to troops supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The message requires all Marine Corps forces and support personnel deploying to the United States Central Command area of operations to receive the smallpox vaccination prior to deploying. Individual augmentees, reserve component personnel and Marines at entry-level schools with follow-on orders to a deployed or deploying OIF II unit are also expected to receive the vaccine.

Female Marines that may be pregnant should undergo a pregnancy screening prior to receiving the vaccination and should avoid becoming pregnant for at least four weeks following inoculation.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen.

Michael W. Hagee, said the vaccine will aid in protecting personnel and preserving "combat effectiveness in the event of a biological attack. While the threat of a biological attack cannot be quantified, the vaccination of our forces remains the most effective countermeasure. Comprehensive unit education is the cornerstone of a safe and successful vaccination program."

The smallpox inoculation causes a distinct reaction and will form a red blister at the vaccination site. Within a few days the blister should turn white and scab over, showing successful vaccination. The MARADMIN states service members must be evaluated by a medical examiner within six to eight days after receiving the smallpox vaccination "to ensure a good vaccine take and to evaluate for any adverse reactions."

According to the Defense Department's Small Pox Vaccination Program Web site, www.smallpox.army.mil, "most people experience normal, usually mild, reactions, such as swollen lymph nodes, sore

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Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



72°/46°
Partly Cloudy



72°/46°
Saturday



70°/46°
Sunday

Marines pass inspection



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Company shatters competition



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Miramar Mail



“Why are corpsmen allowed to wear digital cammies?”
Cpl. Michael T. Franks, flight equipment mechanic, VMFA-314

The Marine Corps issues the utility uniform to all Navy hospital corpsmen, dental technicians, or religious program specialists with Marine Corps units and to Navy counselors, yeomen, personnel men and disbursing clerks assigned to Marine units.

The utility uniform, when it is issued by and at the expense of the Marine Corps, shall be worn in accordance with the provisions of MCO P1020.34G.

The camouflage utility uniform is a standard uniform authorized by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, but the Navy issues it only to Sailors in certain special-

ties. The combat utility uniform is unique to the Marine Corps and may only be worn by Sailors when they are serving with Marine Corps units.

The following regulations apply to the wear of utility uniforms worn by Navy personnel serving with Marine units:

Name and service tapes will be worn on utility uniforms. Tapes will be worn on the utility coat and trousers as prescribed for Marines, except that service tapes will be inscribed with “U.S. NAVY” in upper case letters with a space before “NAVY.”

The left breast pocket of the camouflage utility coat will not have iron on decals or embroidery. The left breast pocket of the combat utility coat will have the embroidered Marine Corps emblem. No alterations of the utility uniform worn by Navy personnel is permitted unless otherwise authorized by MCO P1020.34G.

If the wear of a camouflaged helmet is required and issued by the Marine Corps, Navy personnel will wear a helmet cover with a Marine Corps emblem decal.

Female Navy personnel are not authorized to wear earrings or carry handbags in the utility uniform.



Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

Editor’s note:
E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at:
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil
Please include
“Question to the General”
in the subject line.

NMCRS celebrates a century of service

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society

Arlington, Va.

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society traces its roots to the 1903 football battle between the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen and the West Point Cadets.

Although the score was one-sided (the Cadets defeated the Midshipmen, 40-5), the Navy and Marine Corps were winners because then-President Theodore Roosevelt gave the Navy one-third of the gate receipts (totaling \$9,000), providing initial funding for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

A few months earlier Roosevelt told a California audience, “There is not a man among us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him; and then shame upon him who will not stretch out a helping hand to his brother.”

On Jan. 23, 1904, 19 volunteers signed the Certificate of Incorporation in Washington and the Navy Relief Society was

born. Although we have rendered financial assistance to Sailors, Marines and their families since that date, our name wasn’t officially changed to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society until 1990.

Early assistance from this non-profit, charitable organization was focused on widows and orphans. The volume and diversity of the society’s programs and services have grown dramatically throughout the decades. The prompt, enthusiastic, effective and compassionate response clients have received when they experience an unexpected financial emergency has remained constant.

Through our first 100 years of service, our staff has provided more than \$1 billion in interest-free loans and grants to nearly four million active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families.

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society helps with a broad spec-

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South of the Border safety

Senior Chief Petty Officer David Aguilera

Navy Region Southwest Border Liaison

Although there has been a decline in the number of liberty incidents in Tijuana, Mexico and the San Ysidro ports of entry as compared to previous years, service members continue to experience problems, assaults and other victimization in Tijuana, especially late at night.

Failure to use the buddy system, overindulgence in alcohol, and being in remote areas, away from the normal tourist areas during late hours all contribute to high risk conditions. The purpose of this message is to reiterate the importance of strict adherence to published guidance regarding liberty in Mexico, with the aim of reducing incidents to zero.

A service member recently reported to the border shore patrol that he was a victim of an ATM scam in Tijuana, Mexico. The service member stated that he attempted to withdraw money from an ATM and the machine did not dispense money or return his ATM card.

The service member stated that he was approached by an unknown Hispanic male and female who asked if everything was OK. The service member told them that the ATM took his card and then dismissed the conversation as an idle exchange. The service member said that he left Tijuana and returned to San Diego. The service member stated that when he checked his bank account a few days later, he noticed that \$1,200 was withdrawn from his account from various ATMs in Tijuana.

This scam involves thieves putting a thin,

clear, rigid plastic sleeve into the ATM card slot. When someone later inserts their card, the machine can’t read the strip, so it keeps asking to re-enter the pin number. Meanwhile, someone behind watches as the victim types their pin.

Eventually the victim gives up, thinking the machine has taken their card and the victim walks away. The thieves then remove the plastic sleeve with the card and empty the account. To avoid this, run your fingers along the card slot before inserting the card. The sleeve has a couple of tiny prongs that the thieves use to remove the sleeve from the slot.

If an ATM doesn’t look right, don’t use it. Avoid ATMs in poorly lit or confined spaces that may make it easy for a criminal to corner you. Always shield your hands from prying eyes while entering your pin number. Don’t allow others to distract you from the task at hand. If people insist on loitering while you attempt to use the machine, go somewhere else. Never give your pin to anyone.

If the ATM takes your card, report it to your bank immediately. All liberty incidents occurring in Mexico, including this type of ATM scam, should be reported to the Border Shore Patrol Office immediately.

The Border Shore Patrol has received reports from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol that a number of Sailors have entered the U.S. from Mexico in uniform through the primary vehicle lanes at the San Ysidro port of entry.

Due to security reasons and force protection

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FLIGHT JACKET

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Marines pass holiday inspection

SMP donates food during holidays

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Members of the Single Marine Program ended last year feeling a bit better about the coming year as they donated food to military families and the local community as part of the Field Day Food Drive Dec. 22.

Marines living in the barracks from six commands including Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 323 and 242, Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 38, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 and Marine Air Control Squadron 1, Detachment B, took part in the inaugural event.

The Marines collected more than 1,200 pounds of canned and non-perishable food items that were donated to the Miramar Food Locker and San Diego Food Bank, according to Alisa Hertzler, SMP coordinator.

"That's kind of neat that the single Marines are giving to those who utilize the Food Locker and also to the outside community," she said. "There is great relationship between the San Diego community and the Marine Corps. We are just trying to show them we are trying to give back to the community, and we appreciate everything they do for us."

Marines who live in the barracks donated food as part of field day, a weekly cleanup of the living quarters.

"The whole idea of it was if you leave food for the San Diego Food Bank and Food Locker you would pass the general inspection," Hertzler said.

Hertzler said the idea came from Marines stationed at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., who did the same type of drive last year during an annual SMP conference. The command there had Marines who lived in the barracks leave two cans of food on their rack. The idea was brought to the attention of the SMP council here and for-

warded to the commands for approval.

"We wanted to do that here and do it bigger, so we had each service member leave five cans of food on their rack," she said.

She added that the program was successful due to valuable support received by the participating commands and hopes next year more commands will be encouraged to donate.

"The drive was well received by the commands that participated," Hertzler said. "It was an easy way for them to do some community service. Hopefully, we'll show what a success it was this year and how much bigger it could be next year."

SMP is a Marine Corps program committed to improving the quality of life for single and unaccompanied Marines, according to Hertzler. Marines can identify issues, concerns and suggestions through council meetings and in some cases get involved with programming and coordination of special events and activities.

Hertzler said the program has improved over the years as it encourages Marines to provide input and ideas toward programming in the areas of community involvement, life skills, health and wellness, recreation and career progression. She said the idea behind the program is to teach Marines how to be leaders not only in the Marine Corps, but also in any aspect of their lives.

"A lot of our events in the past have been recreational or for entertainment," Hertzler commented. "We are trying to



Miramar Marines visit the San Diego Food Bank to drop off part of the 1,200 lbs. of food collected during the Single Marine Program's Field Day Food Drive here Dec. 22. Photo courtesy of Single Marine Program

gear more toward programs and events with substance, not only to get the Marines out of the barracks and giving them something to do, but focusing on producing well-rounded Marines and good leaders."

One Marine from each command attends council meetings every first and third Wednesday of the month to identify and address issues affecting the quality of life for Marines. These issues are then forwarded to the proper agency for resolution.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the program, talk with a unit representative or contact Alisa Hertzler at 577-6283.

West 2004 disembarks in San Diego

Story compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

The U.S. Naval Institute and Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will host the Western Conference and Exposition 2004 (West 2004), the largest state-of-the-art warfare and technology exposition and symposium on the West Coast at the San Diego Convention Center, Feb. 3-5.

This exposition and symposium will feature exhibits from more than 350 technology leaders and discussions by leading military experts.

Marines and Sailors will have an opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge and to hear discussions on current national defense issues by senior leadership in a panel format including discussions on the use of Expeditionary Strike Groups and lessons learned from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"(West 2004) is a great opportunity for professional military education," said Betsy Judge, Public Relations Manager, U.S. Naval Institute. "It will allow servicemembers to interact with senior leaders in a panel discussion format."

The theme of this year's exhibition is "Born Joint?" West 2004 speakers and panel sessions will look at how programs and operations within the military can meet the needs of all services. The panel session "Lessons Learned from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom" will look at joint operations and how they were planned and executed.

According to Judge, recent conflicts have combined more than one branch of service and have been proven effective against the enemy.

"Working together in a joint environment is the key to future operations," she said.

West 2004 is the largest event on the West Coast for communications, electronics, intelligence, information systems, imaging, military weapon systems, aviation, ship-

building and more.

Featured speakers are the Honorable Dr. James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, Navy Adm. Walter F. Doran, commander U.S. Pacific Fleet and Joint Task Force 519, Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, commander U.S. Joint Forces Command, Navy Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert Scales, co-

author of *The Iraq War: A Military History* and Author of *Yellow Smoke: The Future of Land Warfare for America's Military*, and Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James E. Cartwright, director of force structure, resources and assessment.

Attendee registration is available online at www.west2004.org. For more information please e-mail westregistration@jspargo.com.

‘Wolfpack’ to test engine blade coating during OIF II

Soviet-era technology extends life of blades

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 will test Soviet-era technology being evaluated by Naval Air Systems Command during their deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom II this spring.

The compressor blades on the T-64 engine used on the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter have experienced dramatically shortened life spans due to erosion, especially in desert conditions experienced during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The metal blade is moving at such a speed that even sand can eat a rotor away,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph A. Gearhart, maintenance control chief, HMH-466.

“The sand affected everything. Once you get sand into a bearing it doesn’t take long to go bad. There is nothing you can really do about it except make sure you have enough parts in supply,” added Gearhart.

A search for help to fix the problem led Naval Air Systems Command to technology used in the Soviet-era Mi-24 Hind attack helicopter.

“The Russians had the same experience in Afghanistan that we did in (Southwest Asia) with engines,” said Greg Kilchenstien, a former NAVAIR Propulsion and Power Systems engineer and member of the integrated product team evaluating the new coating process. “They were scrapping about 80 percent of their rotor blades. This coating technology helped them reduce that rate to about three

percent.”

For the last few years NAVAIR has been evaluating the process the Russians use to coat turbine engine compressor blades with a thin layer of titanium nitride that extend the blades’ life span and improve performance, said Gearhart.

One T-64 engine built with the new technology was delivered by NAVAIR in Patuxent River, Md., and installed recently by HMH-466 Marines as they prepare to leave for Iraq, said Gearhart.

“What this is going to do for us is to cut back on man hours,” Gearhart said. “We are trying to make things better on maintenance. The T-64 is finally getting the recognition it deserves.”

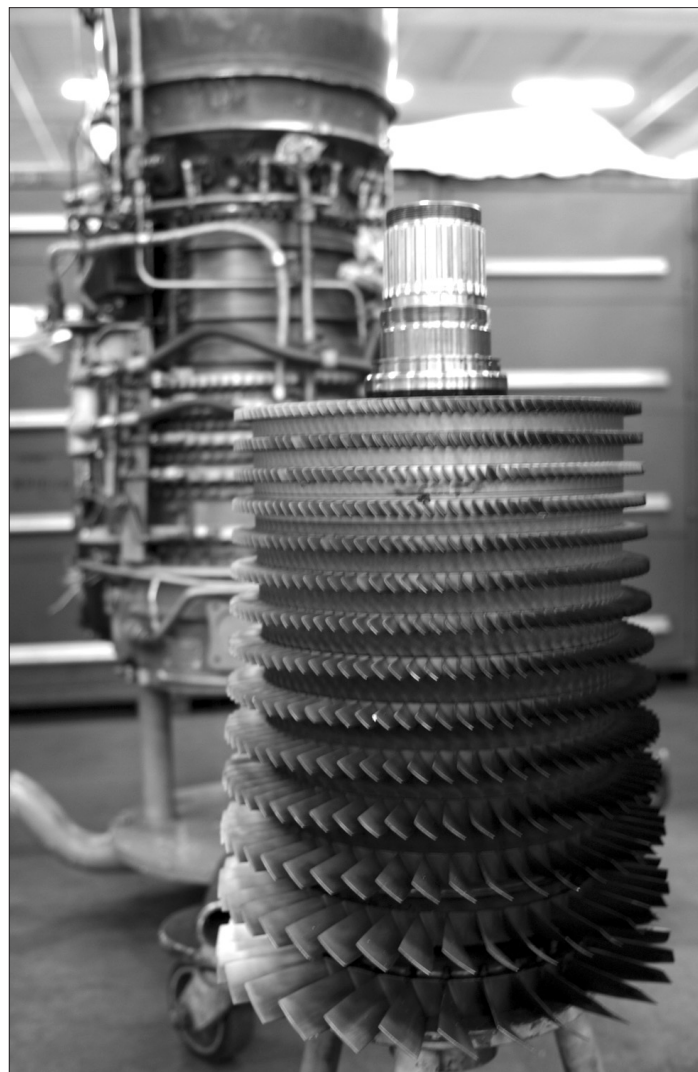
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 462 was fitted with the new technology when they deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom last spring and discovered the blades lasted three times as long as those that did not have the coating, according to Sgt. John A. Gutierrez, assistant noncommissioned officer-in-charge, power plants T-64 section, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 16.

‘The Russians had the same experience in Afghanistan that we did in (Southwest Asia) with engines. They were scrapping about 80 percent of their rotor blades. This coating technology helped them reduce that rate to about three percent.’

Greg Kilchenstien



Turbine engine compressor blades of a T-64 engine are coated with a titanium nitrate to help extend their life span and improve performance of the engine. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas



The blades shown above were removed from an engine used in Operation Iraqi Freedom and will be sent to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., for further evaluation. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

The blades used in that engine have since been replaced and will be sent to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., for further evaluation of the damage caused by the harsh environment.

“These engines can fly up to 2,000 hours under normal conditions, but in this type of environment the engines without the coating only lasted 100 hours,” said Gutierrez, a Los Angeles native. “If you get a piece of pebble in there, it will start chipping off the metal and slowly eat away the blades. It’s a domino effect all the way down.”

Gutierrez said maintenance and casing the blades is the most time consuming item in the whole engine because each blade has to be inserted individually and measured

for proper clearances, weighed, balanced and placed back into the engine. He said the whole process could take up to a week.

Gearhart said the squadron learned a lot from operations conducted during OIF and has made adjustments to their maintenance to help minimize any future problems that may occur.

“We are not going in blind. We are at least educated to how the T-64 reacts to sand,” Gearhart said.

“We are doing everything we can to make sure they stay in the Wing as long as possible so that there is no choke point on the supply end,” he added.

The coating process was developed by the Ural Works of Civil Aviation, or PRAD by its Russian initials, in Ekaterinburg, Russia, according to Chris Georgiou, a NAVAIR aerospace engineer responsible for advanced propulsion programs. It has been successfully protecting TV2 and TV3 engines used in the Mi-24 and Mi-48 helicopters, as well as most of the Russian military fleet.

A sales visit by the Montreal-based MDS Aero Support Corporation led to the Canadian engineers asking about the gold-colored turbine blades from the helicopter engines being rebuilt at the PRAD plant. That resulted in the creation of the joint Russian-Canadian venture, MDSPRAD Technologies Corporation, to market the process.

Naval Air Systems Command provides advanced warfare technologies through the efforts of a seamless, integrated worldwide network of aviation technology experts.

The command provides dominant combat effects and matchless capabilities to the American warfighter who is securing the safety of U.S. citizens through the development of aircraft and weapons for the Navy and Marine Corps, according the NAVAIR Web site.

Sprint to offer high-speed Internet service

Paradigm Digital Subscriber Line projected to connect customers by spring

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Sprint phone office, located in building 5696, will soon offer high-speed Internet access to service members who reside in the Air Station's barracks and bachelor enlisted quarters.

The service offered will be a Paradigm Digital Subscriber Line, most commonly known as DSL.

The high-speed Internet access was first designed for video on demand in 1989 and has since expanded to offer low-cost services to the average consumer.

Compared to regular dial-up Internet access, DSL allows cus-

tomers to use their telephone and be logged on the Internet at the same time, while achieving data transfer rates of up to 2.2 megabytes per second.

Dial-up's maximum speed is a mere 56 kilobytes per second, which makes DSL up to 35 times faster than the soon-to-be outdated dial-up service.

In order to use DSL Internet access, a service member residing in the barracks must be signed up for Sprint barracks phone service, Sprint DSL service and must have a DSL modem.

"The cost of the new service will be \$27.50 a month, and rental of the DSL modem will be an additional \$10 a month," said April

'The cost of the new service will be \$27.50 a month, and rental of the DSL modem will be an additional \$10 a month. To bypass renting a modem, customers may buy the modem for \$100 and will be able to keep it.'

April Trevino

Trevino, Sprint office coordinator. "To bypass renting a modem, customers may buy the modem for \$100 and will be able to keep it."

According to Pablo Pinto, Sprint on-site representative, most DSL modems purchased from computer and electronics stores should be compatible with Sprint's high-speed Internet service.

Pinto also noted that since the DSL lines co-exist with the regular phone lines, all services included in Sprint's phone packages can still be used without interrupting Internet data transfer.

According to Trevino, these services are offered in response to a request by the barracks residents.

"Nearly 50 percent of barracks

residents have requested high-speed Internet access, and when Sprint came to MCAS Miramar it was in the contract to provide it," she said.

On Dec. 5, the Air Station was surveyed for DSL installation by Paradigm, who then ordered the equipment.

The company is scheduled to install the lines during the first week of February, and Sprint's DSL Internet access is projected to be available to barracks residents in March.

For more information on high-speed Internet and how to sign up or barracks phone services, visit the Sprint telephone office in building 5696.



Chew on this

Military Policeman Lance Cpl. Gary James, a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, and Military Working Dog Sisco undergo a morning of aggression training at softball field number three.

The training is done periodically to test the proficiency of the dog and the handler as a team. *Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III*

TASK assists military families with special needs

Advocates host workshop with focus on special education services, programs

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Team of Advocates for Special Kids, Inc., hosted a workshop for military members who have family members with special needs at the Lifestyles, Insight, Networking and Knowledge Skills House here Jan. 10.

TASK is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to enable individuals with disabilities to reach their maximum potential.

They provide the individual, their families and professionals who serve them with training, support, information, resources, referrals and community awareness programs according to its Web site. The services provided are for all ages and is free to service members.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide information about services and programs available in the Southern California region to military members who have family members with special educational or medical needs, according to Lisa Read-Chun, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator and counselor.

She said it focused on special education and the importance of Individualized Education Programs.

"It was designed to teach parents how to prepare for an IEP and how they can be

an advocate and get the (special education) services their child needs," Read-Chun said.

IEP is a plan that gives details about the educational support and services that will help a child with a disability receive instruction in special education, according to Read-Chun. Parents and school staff make up an IEP team who consider a student's strengths and weaknesses when formulating an educational plan.

She explained that the workshop informed service members of the importance of knowing what their legal rights are to ensure their child gets the education they need.

"We should always be researching and advocating for our own children. It is our responsibility as parents," she said.

Parents need to have an understanding of how an IEP works and the laws

governing California's special education system and programs for children with special needs, she added. They should spend time reviewing themselves or with a TASK representative everything that is written on an IEP before signing any paperwork.

"There is a huge bulk of education laws for the state," Read-Chun explained. "Providing services costs the school district money, so you really have to advocate for your child and know what the law says about what your child is entitled to, especially now with a tremendous budget cut in California. You sometimes have to fight for services depending on the school and situation."

Every branch of service has a program that assists military members with special needs. The EFMP is the place Marines and their families can use to obtain information and the resources that are available to them in the local area.

Read-Chun explained that her job as coordinator and counselor includes doing research for service members in the San Diego area and found that there is an overwhelming amount of information and services available for families.

"You get to pick and choose what you want," she said. "We are lucky to be in a major metropolitan area because for every medical or special educational need, there is a local branch of a community service organization that can help you. That is one advantage to living in the San Diego area."

The program is a mandatory enrollment



The Exceptional Family Member Program office, located at the Marine Corps Community Services Counseling Center in building 2274, provides a variety of information about where to get the services required for EFMs through brochures and counseling. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

program for all active duty Marine personnel designed to provide assistance to service personnel with family members who have special needs before, during and after relocation due to permanent change of station orders.

"I help service members and their families with anything related to their exceptional family member," Read-Chun said. "I do everything from helping enroll and disenroll in the EFMP, updating their file, helping with relocation issues, housing, community resources and attending to any needs they may have."

An exceptional family member is defined as a spouse, child, stepchild, adopted child, foster child, or a dependent parent residing with the sponsor who requires special medical or educational services based upon a diagnosed physical, intellectual or emotional handicap.

Read-Chun said the EFMP here continues to improve its services to Miramar Marines and wants to gather any feedback that they may have about the program. One way to provide suggestions would be through the Committee for Persons with Disabilities, which Read-Chun plans to reinstate by this spring.

For more information on EFMP or resources on education or medical services, visit www.efmconnections.org or contact Lisa Read-Chun at 577-9807. To obtain a schedule of workshop dates, visit www.taskmil.org or call Chris Bastian, Southern California TASK Military Outreach Coordinator, at (909) 609-3218.

Get connected with the Marine Corps network

on the outside.



www.MarineForLife.com

Repair company shatters competition

Story and photos by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Ever been cruising down the freeway and see a big rig with a sign reading, “Stay back 200 feet. Not responsible for broken windshields.”? Well, there is now a solution for those who have been a victim of the “broken windshield” trucks.

Alex and Wilma Opal, who operate ClearView Enterprises, are windshield repair specialists who have served area military installations for more than two years.

“The whole procedure takes about seven minutes,” said Alex. “We have been serving Miramar since September 2003 and have enjoyed being here.”

By using state-of-the-art and primitive techniques, they repair small cracks and dings in windshields to avoid further damage.

“We save people money using this procedure,” he said. “Insurance firms would rather pay to have minor repairs done instead of paying for an entire new windshield,” said Alex.

Master Sgt. Larry Murphy, avionics chief, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134, 4th Marine

Aircraft Wing, was on a road trip when his windshield was cracked by a rock.

“I had to have my windshield replaced,” he said. “They cannot repair (large) cracks, but I did get a great deal on a new windshield.”

Murphy said this is a business that needs to be advertised more.

“I did not know there was a windshield

repair place here until one of my Marines told me there was (one) in the Exchange parking lot,” said the 41-year-old Memphis native. “I made my appointment and less than 24-hours later I had a new windshield.”

Alex said that this procedure could save someone up to \$1,000, which is what some car owners have for a deductible.

Alex enjoys working here because he helps service members save money and he likes the surroundings.

“I love aviation,” he said. “It is also a

pleasure meeting and chatting with the customers. I have been around quite a few Marine Corps bases and this is the best one because of the people.”

Alex also said that if a customer does not know if their insurance will pay for the service, the company has a list of all the insurance companies they can bill.

For more information on ClearView and their services, contact Alex or Wilma Opal at (909) 228-7463 or visit them in the Exchange parking lot every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



LEFT: A privately-contracted window repairman replaces the entire windshield of Master Sgt. Larry Murphy's vehicle. Windshield replacement is another service provided by ClearView Enterprises.



Alex Opal, operator of ClearView Enterprises windshield repair specialists, fills a hole with a liquid used to repair small cracks in windshields caused by rocks and other small debris.



Alex Opal, operator of ClearView Enterprises windshield repair specialists, drills a hole 4/32" thick on the windshield of Lance Cpl. Gerardo Casillas' vehicle to repair a minute crack caused by a rock impacting the windshield. Opal and his wife Wilma have been servicing Miramar with their special technique since they opened their booth in September 2003.

In memory of a great American hero

Story by
Master Gunnery Sgt. Gene Szakacsy

MARFORPAC Equal Opportunity Advisor

Just a year before his death — in his book, “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community” — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. voiced his plea for unity with words as relevant today as when they were written.

“We have inherited a large house, a great world house in which we have to live together — black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu — a family unduly separated in ideas, culture, and in-

terest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.”

The 19th national observance of King’s birthday will be celebrated on Monday, Jan. 19. Established by public law 98-144 in 1986, Congress designated the third Monday in January a national holiday in honor of King.

A well-educated scholar, King not only uttered these words that touched the hearts of many Americans and people from around the world at the march on Washington in August of 1963 but also dedicated his life to fulfilling this “dream” and gaining civil rights for all people:

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed, we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.”

Through King’s visionary legacy of hope, he set the tone for a more just and peaceful America through nonviolent means. The Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott, Birmingham, Ala. campaign, Selma, Ala. campaign and the march on Washington were significant milestones that established the foundation of the civil rights movement.

By his strong nonviolent leadership of the civil rights movement, King improved opportunities for all Americans. King’s

crusade to secure equal rights for all was ultimately recognized in December of 1964, when, at age 35, he was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel peace prize.

The recurring theme, “Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!” encourages all members of U.S. Marine Forces Pacific and their families to reflect on the life of a man who dedicated his life in search of equality for all people.

It reminds Marines of their obligation to be role models of our core values of honor, courage and commitment and exemplify the highest standard of excellence at all times.

I have a dream

I HAVE A DREAM ...

that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I HAVE A DREAM ...

that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I HAVE A DREAM ...

that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I HAVE A DREAM ...

today ... This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning “My country ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring.

WHEN WE LET FREEDOM RING ...

when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual ...

“FREE AT LAST! FREE AT LAST!
Thank God almighty,
we are free at last!”

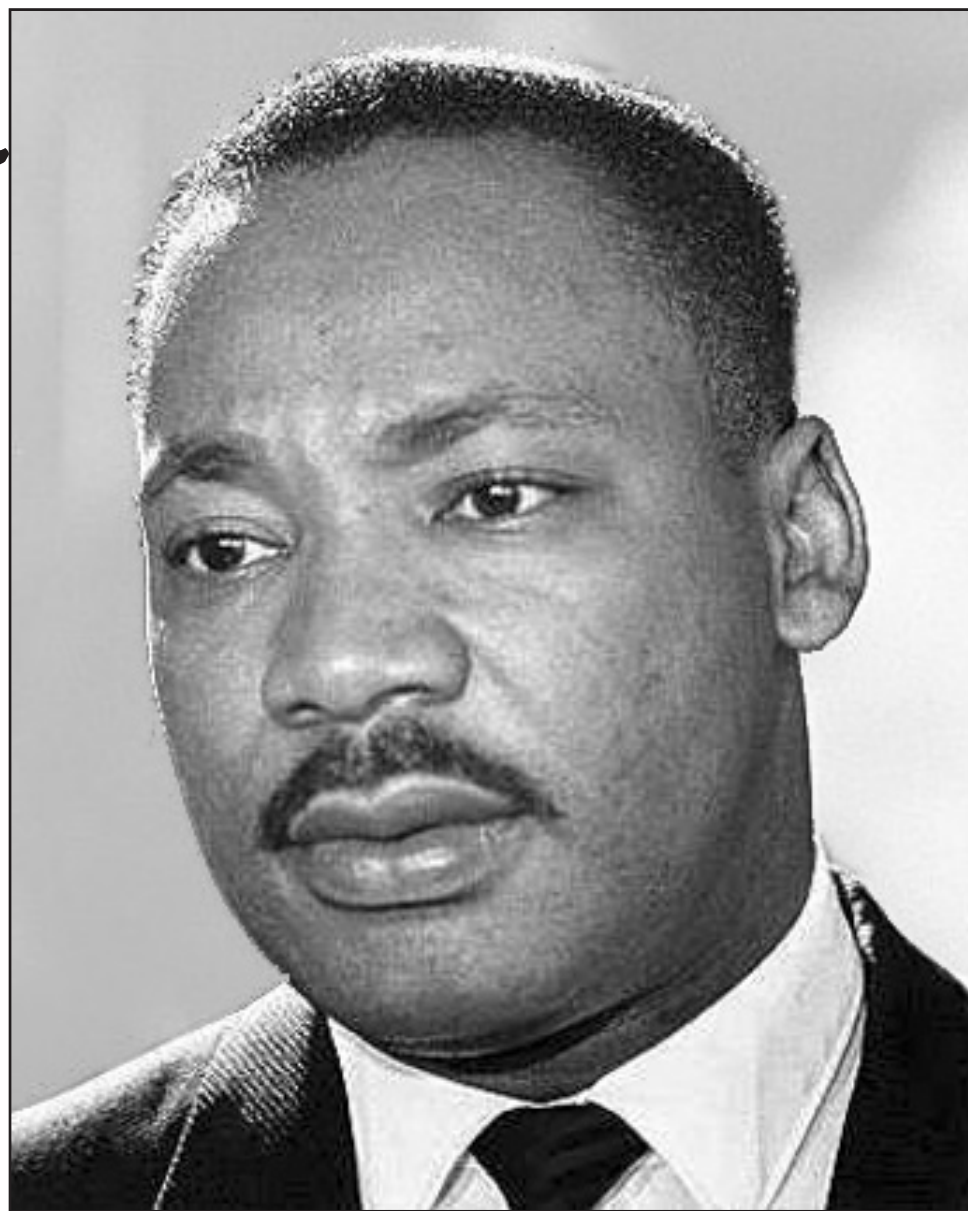


Image courtesy of Military Press Newspaper.

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Varsity defeats the Space Monkeys

Marines take roller hockey division championship from civilians

Story by Sgt. A.C. Strong

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

POWAY, Calif. — Led by four goals from league MVP Trevor Daly, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar “Varsity” roller hockey team won the Bronze A Division League Championships 6-4 over the Space Monkeys, Jan. 8.

At the Poway SportsplexUSA, the Marines gave up two goals in the first five minutes of the game, but Trevor Daly, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, scored unassisted with less than two minutes left in the half leaving the deficit at 2-1.

Starting the second half, Joe Vandermeey, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, scored assisted by Daly to even the score at 2.

However, the Space Monkeys weren’t done. They scored on the ensuing face off to regain the lead 3-2.

Daly scored to tie it up at 3 with 12 minutes to go, assisted by Russ Winkenwerder, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 16.

With eight minutes left on the clock, Vandermeey scored assisted by Brett Hall, MWHS-3, to give the Marines their first lead.

The lead didn’t last long, as the Space Monkeys scored at the six-minute mark, to tie the game at 4.

With 2:33 left in the game Daly completed his hat trick assisted by goalie Scott Rushford, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 to put Varsity ahead for good.

The Space Monkeys pulled their goalie with a minute and a half left. The Marines held off the flurry of final minute shots and Daly scored unassisted on an open net as time ticked down.

Rushford finished the game making 24 saves.

“The defensemen don’t get much glory in the game of stats,” said team captain and defenseman Winkenwerder. “For Vashaw, Fugate and myself, our stats are the bruises we receive blocking the puck. We are the unseen workhorses of the team.”

“The best way to see us in action is to come watch a game,” said defensive player Henry Vashaw, Marine Air-

craft Group 16.

According to Winkenwerder, the Varsity played a 10-game season and made playoffs in the top four. They finished the season in 2nd with six wins – two losses – two ties and won the first playoff game 6-0, Dec. 18, 2003.

“We are continuing to play on Thursdays at SportsplexUSA in Poway, but we are all excited about playing at Skate San Diego,” said Winkenwerder. “We are getting to play in the Collegiate Roller Hockey League against opponents like San Diego State, Pt. Loma Nazarene, Mesa College, UCSD and other local colleges. In the future we hope to compete in the Nationals against other Division III colleges throughout the nation.”

Varsity’s next game is scheduled for Sunday in National City, Calif.

“We are always looking for new talent,” said Winkenwerder. “This team has the best of Miramar playing on it.”

If you are interested in joining the team, or just checking out a game, contact the MCAS Miramar sports director at 577-4128.

Guess who’s back? Back again ... Nostradamus

Commentary by
Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar
Combat Correspondent

It’s been a long time. Too long in my opinion. But, now that I’m officially back, we can get back to talking about what really matters in this world ... sports.

Regulators, mount up ...

With college football’s national championship still fresh in our memories, I’d like to take this opportunity to pat myself on the back a little bit. Now, the three people that read this paper on a weekly basis will probably recall that at the beginning of the season I made these five bold predictions:

Ohio State will repeat as National Champions: Almost got this one. I said the defending champs would play Oklahoma for the national championship. If the Buckeyes would have beat Michigan in their last game of the year, they would have been playing Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl. Just like I predicted.

Auburn is the most overrated team in college football: A respectable magazine, which will remain nameless, picked the Tigers as their number one team in the nation. What a joke. So naturally, I predicted they would lose at least two games, but most likely four, and would finish out of the top 25. And what do you know, they lost five games and finished out of the top 25.

A player no one expects will win the Heisman Trophy: Got this one too. Jason White took the Heisman back to Oklahoma only a year after tearing up his knee and contemplating the possibility of life without football. The senior had a great season that was dulled somewhat by his performance during his last two games.

The Army will not win a game all year: It’s scary how good I am. This year’s joke of a team Army threw together managed to do something no other team in the history of Division I-A college football has been able to do with a 13 game schedule. They lost every game they played. Awesome.



Sgt. Stueve

The PAC-10 will be the most exciting conference in college football this season: It’s debatable on whether I got this one right or not, but you’ve got to admit that any conference with the University of Southern California in it has a chance to be pretty darn exciting.

So, I nailed three of them, had one that was debatable and one that was sooooo close to happening. Should I be working for *Sports Illustrated* or what?

Next on the list of things to talk about is old Charlie Hustle. Better known to you dilltantes as Pete Rose. Growing up just outside Cincinnati I was taught from an early age that Pete Rose was a man who was larger than life. They even named a street after him in Cincinnati. Then as I became older I realized on my own that Pete Rose was indeed human. He made mistakes just like the rest of us. But the question I was unable to answer until recently was ... Did he get punished for his mistake like the like the rest of us would get punished for the same mistake?

I thought about this for a long time and I’ve finally come up with my answer: Pete Rose should have been, and was, banned for life from baseball. He compromised the integrity of the game and in the process placed a very real doubt in the back of each baseball fans’ mind that the game they’re watching right now could be fixed. If Rose would have bet on games he was not a part of, then I would say he belongs back in baseball. He has served enough time. But, he bet on games in which his teams were a part of and that is inexcusable. As much as I love Pete Rose as a ballplayer, I don’t believe he belongs back in baseball, but I do believe he belongs in the Hall of Fame. In my opinion the Hall of Fame is not for great players who were also great people. It’s for great players. Period. And Pete Rose was a great player.

The NFL playoff games I saw this past weekend were awesome. Two of the four went into overtime and all were decided by seven points or less. Also, I watched a few of the games in high definition, and it was unbelievable. I never could have imagined the difference between regular TV and HD could be that big, but it was. If you ever get the opportunity to watch football in HD do

it. You won’t be disappointed.

True or False: The Indianapolis Colts will be Super Bowl champions.

Baseball’s off-season has been quite interesting so far. A few good moves have been made, a few questionable ones too, but they’ve all been overshadowed by the “A-Rod” soap opera and the Rose thing. So, just in case you missed some of the big moves, let’s take a look at what’s happened so far: The Angels picked up the biggest free agent in outfielder Vladimir Guererro and also found the money to add Bartolo Colon. Vlad is one of the top five players in the game and will make an immediate impact for the Angels. The Yankees picked up a few big names including pitchers Javier Vasquez,

Kevin Brown and All-Star outfielder Gary Sheffield. The Red Sox were not to be outdone and picked up All-World pitcher Curt Shilling. So far the Sox have managed to keep Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra and I fully expect to see the Yankees and the Red Sox in another battle come October. The Astros picked up Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, and the Orioles scored big with Miguel Tejada, Javy Lopez and Rafael Palmeiro.

I can’t wait to see all these guys in their new uniforms and playing for their new teams. This is without question, the best free-agent class in years.

That’s it sports fans. I’ll see ya when I see ya.

**The chance taker
is the accident maker**

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ♦ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ♦ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ♦ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ♦ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday
- ♦ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ♦ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ♦ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ♦ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10: 45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ♦ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

Young Marines

If you missed the parent brief, Miramar Young Marines will conduct another brief on Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. The location is Camp Elliot (East Miramar) building 21139.

Career Fair '04

Still looking for that perfect job? Find it at the Career Fair '04.

Bring your resumes and be dressed for success Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Officers Club. For more information call 577-6710/6491/8965.

Winter Racquetball

Miramar "Winter Madness" Racquetball Tournament begins Jan. 20. Novice, intermediate and advanced divisions are available as well as singles and double competition. Sign up at the Mitchel Sports Complex or call 577-4128.

Soccer League

The 6 vs. 6 Soccer League begins Feb. 19. Games will be from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information visit the sports office or call 577-1202.

Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

On Jan. 12 the Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater was closed for renovations for a minimum of 90 days. Renovations include new carpeting, tile and seating, as well as installation of an air conditioning and heating system, a fire safety system and a new roof. During this time, the theater will be closed for all training and movie program opportunities.

Free! Free! Free!

The MCAS Miramar Income Tax Center can help you prepare and electronically file your federal and state income taxes for free. This service would ordinarily cost \$100-\$300.

Tax center personnel are specifically trained to prepare active duty military and retiree tax returns. If you elect direct deposit, the tax center can generally get you

your income tax refund in as little as seven to ten days.

On Jan. 24, the MCAS Miramar Tax Center will be open for business, ready to assist you with your income tax needs. The tax center is located on the north side of the Miramar Library, building 5305. For more information please call 577-9413.

January

Jan. 21-23, Wednesday to Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.*
Jan. 24, Saturday
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Late Febuary to Early April

Feb. 9 - Apr. 3
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.*
Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Early Feburary

Feb. 2-6, Monday to Friday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.*
Feb. 7, Saturday
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

April to End of Filing Season

Apr. 5-9, Monday to Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.*
Apr. 10, Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Apr. 12-15, Monday to Wednesday
7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

* Walk-ins close at 4:30 p.m. on these days.
Remaining times are by appointment only.

Troops,
continued from page 1

arm, fever, headache, body ache and fatigue. These symptoms may peak three to 12 days after vaccination.”

Defense Department officials stated the disease “is contagious, deadly and incurable” which makes vaccination important for troops deploying to high-threat overseas locations.

Smallpox is caused by the variola virus and is spread by direct and fairly prolonged face-to-face contact with a contagious person or contact with infected skin, bodily fluids or inanimate objects such as sheets and towels.

There is no established method of treatment for the disease, and patients diagnosed with smallpox can only receive medications to control the pain and fever.

For further guidance or more information on the smallpox disease or vaccination program, log on to www.vaccines.army.mil.

NMCRS,
continued from page 2

trum of needs, which is continually fueled by the commitment and professionalism of more than 3,000 volunteers. The Society can help with emergency transportation, first-time insurance premiums, food, shelter and utilities, college scholarships and loans, medical bills, automobile repairs and more.

Not all of the Society’s business involves the disbursement of loans and grants. Many Sailors and Marines call or visit one of the 250 offices ashore and on board ships

around the world to learn how to prepare a budget, set up a home visit by one of the society’s visiting nurses, or apply for a layette or junior sea bag.

The society gives out more than 8,000 junior sea bags annually for new additions to sea service families. Each junior sea bag includes hand-knitted or crocheted baby blankets, sweaters, booties and more - all produced by society volunteers.

Natural disasters like Hurricane Isabel and the California forest fires, and tragedies like the terrorist attack on the *USS Cole* and the Pentagon, bring the value of the Navy/

Marine Corps Relief Society into sharper focus. In such cases, the Society has provided special additional assistance, thanks to the overwhelming benevolence of individuals, organizations and corporations around the world.

The volunteers and employees of the Navy/ Marine Corps Relief Society look forward to their second century of service.

For additional information on our programs and services, to learn about volunteer opportunities or make a contribution to this organization, please visit their Web site at www.nmcrcs.org.

Border,
continued from page 2

requirements, service members are not authorized to be in uniform in Mexico unless conducting official business on behalf of the U.S. Government, but those who reside in Mexico are authorized to travel from place of residence to place of work in uniform.

Marine Corps Regional Order 1050 requires that all Marines E-3 and below have an “out of bounds” chit to go to Mexico. The regional order applies to all Marines E-3 and be-

low assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/ Western Recruiting Region, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area commands.

There is no status of forces agreement with Mexico. U.S. military personnel should understand their military status gives them no special rights beyond those of ordinary American tourists in Mexico.

All military personnel without their armed forces identification cards will be de-

nied entry into Mexico per Navy Bureau of Naval Personnel Instruction 1750.10A.

Navy Region Southwest Border Shore Patrol has a Tijuana Liberty Brief PowerPoint presentation available on CD for commands to train their personnel.

The power point contains safety tips, tourist information, Operation Safe Crossing information, off-limit areas, Tijuana tourist police information, U.S. Consulate information and important phone numbers. For a copy of the Tijuana Liberty Brief CD or to schedule a command brief call (619) 428-2427.